

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed December 8, 2005. In the Office Action claims 1-19 were subject to restriction. Specifically, the Office Action claims that the application contains claims that are allegedly directed to the following species of the claimed invention:

- (I) The species of Figures 3-4 and 6-7;
- (II) The species of Figures 5 and 8;
- (III) The species of Figures 3-4 and 9; and
- (IV) The species of Figures 3-4 and 10-11.

Upon entry of the present response, claims 4, 10, and 12 have been withdrawn, claims 1, 9, and 16 have been amended, and claims 1-3, 5-9, 11, and 13-19 remain pending in the present application.

ELECTION OF A SPECIES

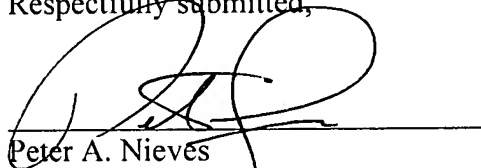
In response to the Office Action, the Applicant hereby provisionally elects species II, corresponding to FIG. 5 and FIG. 8, *without* traverse, for prosecution on the merits. Furthermore, through the foregoing Amendment, the Applicant has withdrawn claims 4, 10, and 12, without prejudice, thereby evidencing the Applicant's intent to preserve the Applicant's right to pursue the subject matter of the withdrawn claims in the future. The Applicant has taken this action merely to reduce the number of issues in the presently pending application and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of the present application. An action on the merits is hereby respectfully requested.



CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing and for at least the reasons set forth above, the Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and the presently pending claims. If in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (603) 627-8134.


Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 9, 2006 at Manchester, New Hampshire.

By: 
Elaine Cote